

1-1 By: Isaac (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.B. No. 1510
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 5, 2017;
 1-3 May 12, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-4 Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs; May 19, 2017, reported
 1-5 favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 19, 2017,
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			

1-16 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-17 AN ACT

1-18 relating to the transfer of certain functions related to emergency
 1-19 services districts from the Department of Agriculture to the Texas
 1-20 Division of Emergency Management.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Section 487.061, Government Code, is transferred
 1-23 to Subchapter C, Chapter 418, Government Code, redesignated as
 1-24 Section 418.053, Government Code, and amended to read as follows:

1-25 Sec. 418.053 [~~487.061~~]. EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT
 1-26 PROGRAM. (a) The division [~~department~~] shall serve as a resource
 1-27 to provide interested rural communities with:

- 1-28 (1) general information about emergency services
- 1-29 districts; and
- 1-30 (2) information and training related to the
- 1-31 establishment of an emergency services district.

1-32 (b) The division [~~department~~] may:

- 1-33 (1) provide to fire departments in rural areas
- 1-34 information relating to assistance programs offered to rural
- 1-35 volunteer firefighters, including the federal Staffing for
- 1-36 Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant program to help fire
- 1-37 departments increase staffing and deployment capabilities; and
- 1-38 (2) provide to rural homeowners information relating
- 1-39 to the benefits of volunteer fire departments, including a
- 1-40 reduction in homeowners insurance risk ratings, lower homeowners
- 1-41 insurance rates, and better fire protection.

1-42 SECTION 2. Sections 775.083(a), (b), and (c), Health and
 1-43 Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

1-44 (a) On or before January 1 of each year, a district shall
 1-45 file with the Texas Division of Emergency Management [~~Department of~~
 1-46 ~~Rural Affairs~~] an annual report that includes the following:

- 1-47 (1) the district's name;
- 1-48 (2) the name of each county in which the district is
- 1-49 located;
- 1-50 (3) the district's business address;
- 1-51 (4) the name, mailing address, and term of office of
- 1-52 each commissioner;
- 1-53 (5) the name, mailing address, and term of office of
- 1-54 the district's general manager, executive director, and fire chief;
- 1-55 (6) the name of each legal counsel or other consultant
- 1-56 for the district; and
- 1-57 (7) the district's annual budget and tax rate for the
- 1-58 preceding fiscal year.

1-59 (b) The Texas Division of Emergency Management [~~Department~~
 1-60 ~~of Rural Affairs~~] may not charge a fee for filing the report.

1-61 (c) The Texas Division of Emergency Management [~~Department~~

2-1 ~~of Rural Affairs]~~ shall develop and maintain an Internet-based
2-2 system that enables:

2-3 (1) a district to securely file the report and update
2-4 the district's information; and

2-5 (2) the public to view, in a searchable format, the
2-6 reports filed by districts under this section.

2-7 SECTION 3. Not later than January 1, 2018, the following are
2-8 transferred from the Department of Agriculture to the Texas
2-9 Division of Emergency Management:

2-10 (1) the powers, duties, functions, programs, and
2-11 activities of the Department of Agriculture relating to the duties
2-12 described by Section 418.053, Government Code, as transferred,
2-13 redesignated, and amended by this Act;

2-14 (2) any obligations and contracts of the Department of
2-15 Agriculture that are directly related to implementing a power,
2-16 duty, function, program, or activity described by Subdivision (1)
2-17 of this section; and

2-18 (3) all property and records in the custody of the
2-19 Department of Agriculture that are related to a power, duty,
2-20 function, program, or activity described by Subdivision (1) of this
2-21 section and all funds appropriated by the legislature for that
2-22 power, duty, function, program, or activity.

2-23 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act to Section
2-24 775.083, Health and Safety Code, applies only to an annual report
2-25 due on or after January 1, 2019. An annual report due before
2-26 January 1, 2019, is governed by the law as it existed immediately
2-27 before the effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in
2-28 effect for that purpose.

2-29 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

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